

# State Representative

## Tom Knollman

### House District 55

## Legislative Survey



Dear Neighbor,

As your newly elected state representative, I am honored to have been selected and have wasted no time voicing the concerns of East Central Indiana. During the last biennium, House legislators were successful in creating the state's first truly balanced budget as well as initiatives to increase the state's infrastructure-helping to maintain Indiana as the Crossroads of America.

Included within this newsletter, you will find my legislative survey. Please take the time to complete the survey so that I may have a better understanding of your views on important issues facing our district and our state. Also enclosed within the newsletter is the House Republican 12-point plan to continue to bring progress to the state. Some of the initiatives addressed include continuing to bring fiscal integrity to the state's finances, improving Indiana's economic prospects, and helping to increase educational opportunities for Hoosier children.

In an increased effort to keep the lines of communication open between the citizens and the Statehouse, I would like to encourage you to keep informed of events happening at the General Assembly through my website or viewing us online at <http://www.in.gov/legislative/> and clicking on "Watch the General Assembly" on the right. If you should have any questions regarding any items addressed within this newsletter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Tom Knollman

*Representative Tom Knollman reviews legislative procedures during a Legislative Services orientation.*



### How to Contact State Rep. Tom Knollman

If you have a question regarding state government, there are three ways you can contact Rep. Knollman:

#### Mail

State Rep. Tom Knollman  
200 W. Washington  
Room 401  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

#### Telephone

(800) 382-9841

#### E-mail

H55@in.gov

### Fill Out This Survey Online!

Visit my website at  
**[www.in.gov/h55](http://www.in.gov/h55)**  
to complete this survey and send me additional comments.

# 12 Point Plan for Indiana's Progress

1. **Permanently Eliminate Taxpayer Funded Lifetime Healthcare Benefits** for House Members through legislation to be introduced in the 2007 legislative session. Last year, Republican Leader Brian Bosma eliminated the benefit administratively.
2. **Balance the 2008-09 State Budget** with no general tax increases, accounting gimmicks or dedicated fund transfers to artificially balance Indiana's books.
3. **Eliminate Partisan Gerrymandering** of Indiana's legislative and congressional districts for political gain by the party in control of the Indiana House at the end of each decade.
4. **Provide for Indiana's Energy Needs** with a focus on 'Hoosier Homegrown Energy' by making bio-diesel and ethanol more available to consumers, thus reducing the reliance on imported oil.
5. **Reform the Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV)** by providing a 30-minute guarantee at the BMV and other measures to improve service and efficiency.
6. **Honor and Support Hoosier Veterans and Active Military** by increasing financial assistance to those who are serving today and their families, and honoring veterans for their service.
7. **Empower Indiana Schools** by providing more resources, more flexibility and more incentives for schools, teachers, parents, and students.
8. **Crack Down on Illegal Immigration** by broadening State Police powers to enforce federal immigration laws and ensuring that state benefits are awarded only to legal Indiana residents.
9. **Expand our Job Creation Success** and promote job growth in the small business sector where 75% of Hoosier jobs are created.
10. **Get Tough on Crime** by requiring violent felons to serve at least

85% of their sentence, protecting children from

Internet sexual predators, requiring federal background checks on caregivers of the elderly, and protecting all Hoosiers from identity theft, violent offenders, and meth dealers.

11. **Help Access Affordable Healthcare** with common sense market based solutions like providing tax credits for Worksite Health Programs, a Health Insurance Premium Deduction, and allowing coverage by a parent's policy until the age of 24.

12. **Let Hoosiers Speak on Traditional Marriage** by voting in the 115<sup>th</sup> General Assembly on SJR7 – the amendment to define marriage as a union between one man and one woman – and placing SJR7 on a referendum ballot for Indiana voters to consider in November of 2008.

## Limiting Hoosier Reliance on Foreign Fuels

House Republicans made alternative energy a top priority during the 114<sup>th</sup> session of the Indiana General Assembly and through those efforts Indiana has become a leader in biofuel production. In January 2005, Indiana had one biofuel plant and no public E85 pumps. Now, there are 17 ethanol plants and four biodiesel plants operating, under construction or announced. Availability of these renewable resources has also been increased and presently there are 40 E85 and nine biodiesel pumps around the state. This places Indiana in the top five states in the nation for retail availability of E85 fuel.

Increasing Hoosier awareness of alternative energy benefits will be a focus of the 2007 session. Indiana's state government is making the transition to renewable resources by gradually replacing the motor fleet with flex-fuel vehicles. House Republicans will also work to require an energy audit of all state government facilities so that a percentage of electrical needs for state government can be purchased from renewable sources. Republican leaders would also like to encourage citizens to choose to invest in renewable energy by providing tax incentives. Currently, individuals who purchase hybrid vehicles are provided with a federal tax credit. House Republicans would like to give Hoosiers further incentive by providing an additional \$1,000 purchase credit. To entice businesses to invest in renewable energy, they have proposed tax credits for companies that invest in alternative energy such as methane, solar or wind power.

During this session, House Republicans will continue to promote "homegrown" energy to reduce the state's reliance on imported oil and to attract new jobs. Indiana's 21 alternative fuel production facilities will strengthen the economy by creating an estimated 918 permanent Hoosier jobs, bring at least \$29.5 billion to our rural economies and lead to \$1.67 billion in capital investment. House Republican plans will continue to lead Indiana's economy forward.



Representative Knollman discusses legislative issues with Floor Leader Richardson during this year's Organization Day.